

## Kalo farmers support bill opposing GMO

Cartoons | Page 5

Legislature considering ban on genetically modified kalo

#### By Blane Benevedes

Ka Leo News Editor

Tomorrow, Hawai'i state representatives will hear public testimony in support of a bill intended to ban the genetic engineering of the kalo plant, a Hawaiian cultural foundation, for the next 10 years.

Senate Bill 958 was first introduced in January 2007 and is designed to place a moratorium (a legislative ban) on all genetic modification, development, raising and cultivation of all varieties of the plant, which is currently done by various biotechnological companies in Hawai'i, until July 17, 2017. Its next step in the legislature is through the House Committee on Agriculture.

"We would like a total ban, but that's not being responsible. This is a cooling off period," said Jerry Konanui, a Native Hawaiian kalo farmer whose family has grown the plant in the Puna district of Hawai'i for the past eight generations.

"The message from the people is simple: Haloa is family, kalo is life, being in the lo'i is living," said Bryna Storch of Kahea, a Hawaiian cultural and environmental advocacy group that organized the testimonies in support of the measure. "It is not appropriate, necessary nor acceptable to engineer kalo into a genetically modified organism."

Genetic engineering, the process of inserting genes from one species into another resulting in the creation of GMOs, has been conducted in Hawai'i for over a decade. Statistically, over 2,000 field tests of genetically engineered crops have been coordinated in the islands thus far, making Hawai'i the most genetically tested agricultural region in the world, according to Earthjustice, an environmental advocacy group.

Commentary | Page 4

"For classical breeding to be able to happen, the two parent crops have to be related and able to produce," said Ania Wieczorek of the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. "For genetic engineering, the two DNA donor parents do not have to be related."

Spearheading the genetic engineering market in Hawai'i is Monsanto Company, a St. Louisbased multinational agricultural biotechnology corporation. The company, which is the world's largest supplier of the herbicide Roundup, acquired 2,300 acres of land in Kunia from the James Campbell Company, where it plans to replace the land's current pineapple fields with genetically engineered corn.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, once a primary research center for GMO kalo, shut down its kalo operations in 2006 after heavy protesting by kalo farmers, professors and university students. Ka Leo was unable to contact UH Manoa's lead kalo researcher, Dr. Susan Miyasaka, on the matter.

See GMO, page 2



#### THE GENEALOGY OF HALOA:



## GMO: Not enough info led to community concern

#### From page 1

"Everything in life has its benefits and risks, and genetic modification is no exception," Wieczorek said. However, she noted that some of the benefits of genetic engineering include increased crop productivity, enhanced crop protection and improvements in food processing.

But along with the agricultural penefits of genetic engineering come health-related issues.

"A major safety concern raised with regard to genetic modification technology is the risk of introducing allergens and toxins into otherwise safe foods. The Food and Drug Administration checks to ensure that the levels of naturally occurring allergens in foods made from transgenic crops have not significantly increased above the natural range found in conventional foods," Wieczorek said.

Opposers of genetic engineering note that the FDA only reviews natural allergen levels of GMO products that will enter the market, and not those being tested in the field, which may cross-pollinate with other organisms in the wild.

Proponents of the ban feel that it is necessary not only for the continuance of traditional Hawaiian agricultural and customary practices, but for the environmental integrity of

the islands as well. "If kalo's not sacred in Hawai'i,

then nothing is," Storch said. The push for a moratorium on the genetic engineering of the kalo plant began at UH Mānoa in 2006, when controversy surrounded the school's three kalo patents and a faculty member's creation of new kalo breeds. Some Hawaiians took this act as a direct blow to the traditional beliefs and practices of kalo farmers and other traditionalists, many of whom believe that the kalo is their

He hopes the moratorium will provide ample time for gathering information on the impact of genetic engineering.

Active in the kalo-growing community, Konanui said that most farmers are in support of the ban. "If you look at what has driven the taro genetic engineering, it didn't come from the farmers," he added.

Although he was once an advocate of genetic engineering on behalf of the university, Konanui now sees the situation differently.

## walo's not sacred in Hawai'i, then nothing is." -Bryna Storch on the importance of kalo to the

older sibling who must be cared for and cannot be owned in the traditional Western sense.

"For generations ... everyone shared the huli (the planting part of the taro); it was a community and cultural thing," Konanui said.

genetic engineering would save the world," he said, because he initially believed it would provide neverbefore-seen breakthroughs in the fight against world hunger. However, as he became more familiar with the subject through active research, which included trips to GMO conferences as far away as Italy, Konanui began to see the matter differently. "Basically, there's quite a lot of

Hawaiian community

"For many years, I thought

problems with genetic engineering," he said. "There's no data on human impact; there's nothing about the impact of genetically engineered food on the food we eat or consume."

Because of the lack of data associated with genetic engineering, 30 nations have banned GMO products in some form, according to

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Butch DeTroye, a kalo farmer, works in a kalo patch in Ka'ala, an area along the Wai'anae Coast.

COURTESY PHOTO BRYNA STORCH

you can never recall it. It's a living organism. It'll go and contaminate other taros," Konanui said.

Over 300 varieties of kalo were believed to have been cultivated at the time of James Cook's first arrival in Hawai'i in 1778. Currently, approximately 70 types are grown in farms throughout the islands. While most varieties are distinctly native to Hawai'i, the greater kalo family extends to many agricultural societies found throughout Oceania, Asia and even as far as Egypt.

The hearing before the House Committee on Agriculture will begin tomorrow at 9 a.m. at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

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proteins and bacteria. GMOs have the ability to cross-pollinate with natural varieties across long distances, when animals and insects spread pollen over large land areas. "Once you get it out in the field, **EDITORIAL** 

fied to some extent.

Voice of the Environment, an envi-

ronmental organization. However,

the United States has not taken sim-

ilar action. Earthjustice estimates

that approximately 70 to 75% of all

produce currently sold at American

grocery stores is genetically modi-

Konanui feels that genetic engi-

neering is potentially hazardous to

the entire kalo community because

GMOs, which may contain unwanted

From an ecological standpoint,

# EDITOR: TAYLOR HALL ASSOCIATE EDITOR: ARIEL PEASE

PAGE Monday, March 17, 2008 3 mixedplate@kaleo.org



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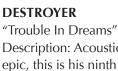
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#### OUT TOMORROW

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### ASSOCIATE EDITOR: ALEXIS E. JAMISON COmmentary SHARING THE VOICE PAGE Monday, March 17, 2008 commentary@kaleo.org M-R-Why: one woman's experience of medical technology

#### By Chelsea Skidmore

Ka Leo Staff Writer

As we walked off the elevator onto the third floor and turned right into the radiology department, I thought to myself, "Am I really getting an MRI at 19 years old?"

After signing my brain's life away and being told that I look like a 12-year-old, I was ushered into a changing room where I was given an old robe and an ID bracelet. I couldn't tie the robe properly until I found a spare string, and the locker for my stuff was broken. Someone had to help stow my belongings. Ready for scanning!

Escorted through a high-security door, I found myself on the set of "2001: A Space Odyssey." The room was dark, cold and bare, except for a picture of a cloudy blue sky. I felt as if I were about to be sent off to Heaven.

A foreign woman changed the sheet on the platform and asked me to lie down, while an Indian man told me to take my ponytail out.

They pulled a blanket up to my neck because it was going to be very cold during the MRI. (I later found out the blanket was made of lead.) Then, they covered my ears with giant headphones because it would also be very loud.

They moved the platform I was lying on into the tank and placed my head into what looked like a white Easter egg basket. As they sent me off through their time-travel portal, they instructed me to not move a muscle, asked my name and, at the last second, said, "See you in 20 minutes!"

Twenty minutes? I didn't sign up for that.

The machine began, and all kinds of sounds came through: a drum pad, a helicopter dragging a garbage can, beeping, scanning, whirring up and down. I even heard a laser beam battle, the kind from a 'Star Wars' movie.

It was difficult to stay completely still, and I was reprimanded over a loudspeaker: "Chel-say-uhhh, you ha-vvvv-uh-ve to stay sti-i-i-ll."

What did I do? Swallow? Take a breath too deep? Saliva was filling my mouth. "I'm not breathing through my nose in this mock ice chamber for 20 minutes," I thought to myself.

It was over sooner than I expected, but I felt dizzy. After a few minutes though, I was back to reality. I got changed and left.

Result of onerous mechanical test: Nothing is wrong with my brain.



COURTESY PHOTO • MCT CAMPUS Despite recent advancements in medical technology, doctors still have trouble connecting with their patients.

## Vice chancellor for students misses the point

#### By Alyosha Mattanovich

Ka Leo Columnist

University of Hawai'i vice chancellor for students Francisco Hernandez said that the recent lawsuit filed against the university by a gay couple seeking equal housing rights "is surprising and disappointing, because UH Mānoa was already working on changing our housing policies to accommodate couples such as the plaintiffs and families in similar situations."

I wouldn't be surprised if the prosecution calls Hernandez as their primary witness. By saying that the school is working on accommodating couples like the plaintiffs, Hernandez effectively conceded that the couple's cause has merit, simultaneously denouncing their attempt to receive fair treatment. It's the



HERNANDEZ

"The lawsuit is surprising and disappointing, because UH Mānoa was already working on changing our housing policies to accommodate couples such as the plaintiffs and families in similar situations."

### -Francisco Hernandez, Vice Chancellor for Students

equivalent of a plantation owner saying: "It is surprising and disappointing that a slave decided to run away, because we were in the process of abolishing slavery."

As a result, the vice chancellor has provided an excellent example of assumed oppression. The idea is that you shouldn't demand anything, but should gratefully accept what you've been given. Students are indeed being prepared for

the real world, because mindless subjects who obey without question are exactly what corporate America demands.

There is no reason that homosexual couples, heterosexual couples or close friends should not be able to live together. If the school was in the process of changing their housing policy, it was probably to pre-empt being sued. There is nothing surprising

about the lawsuit. But it is disappointing that the school must be sued before granting basic dignity and civil rights to students.

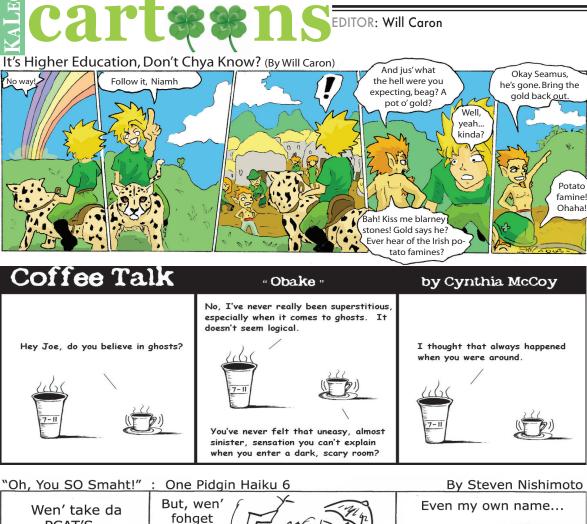
Policy changes are not that difficult, after all. Just send out a memo and start taking applications. If it's harder, it's because the school makes it that way. Change the plodding bureaucratic mechanism, as well as the teaching of socialized compliance, and maybe

fewer lawsuits will be filed.

What interest does UH have in who lives together on campus, anyway? Why isn't students' happiness of greater concern to the administration? Clearly, the school thinks that people living in student housing are receiving a handout and should give up some comforts in return. But why?

We all need to be more considerate of others, especially policymakers. But we don't exert enough effort in this regard, which is why people feel pressure from a thousand different directions.

Eventually, these small doses of insensitivity detract from a person's quality of life until existence becomes inexplicably unpleasant. If we instead made each other's happiness a priority, not only would we avoid many lawsuits, but this world would be a more enjoyable place to live.



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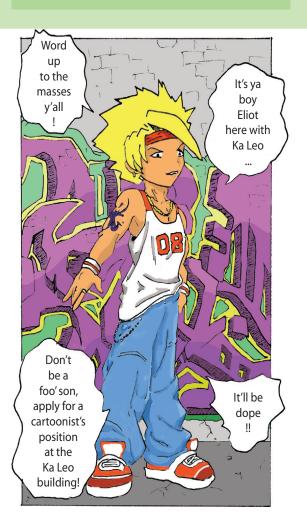
How could you.

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wrong!? Not that hard!

́ ``Я" 🔪 looked right

at the time \*cry\* –President George W. Bush in an interview on National Public Radio, Jan. 29, 2007



THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT BY JOSH HARMON

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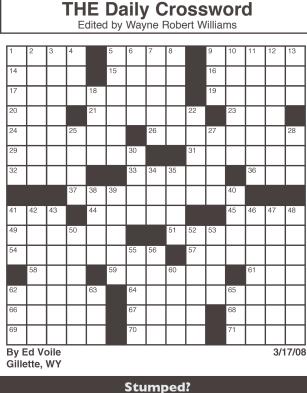
Note: It's like all of my science teachers are ganging up on me... Darn you, Basidomycota!!!

"Oh, You So Smaht!" : One Time with da Tourists 2 By Steven Nishimoto We want to help you Isn't Mapunapuna You First, there's 'Aiea, Waipahu, They're a kind of food? learn Hawaiian!! guys, Kahuku, Waimalu, Waikiki, Kapolei, names of Yav for Like the white bun again!? Mapunapuna... places!! A native vou!! vith meat inside? should know thought the Still Local her own lan was Chine Japanese guage.

Note: Manapua!! I like the pizza manapuas at the 'Aiea manapua shop! :)

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30 Final bio?

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34 Radio static, in brief

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- Pea
- 71 Gray and Candler

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# 61

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# Warriors defeat UC Irvine in three

#### By Meghan Lopez Ka Leo Sports Editor

Vengeance came in the form of a three-set sweep for the University of Hawai'i Warrior volleyball team last Saturday as they closed out a two-game series against No. 8 UC Irvine. After a four-set loss to the Anteaters on Friday, the No. 14 Warriors fought their way through three close sets to take the win.

"We just focused on finishing tonight. Last night we got up by a lot of points ... but we just couldn't finish it and they kept coming back," said freshman Joshua Walker, who posted 12 kills Saturday.

Finish is exactly what the Warriors did in less than two hours of play in front of a crowd of 1,815. Game 1 went to extra play, with UH coming out on top 33-31.

Only a few points separated both teams throughout the match and the entire series. It came down to which team wanted it more in the end.

"I was thinking about this game ever since last night, so I was focused, I was thinking about it the whole day," Walker said.

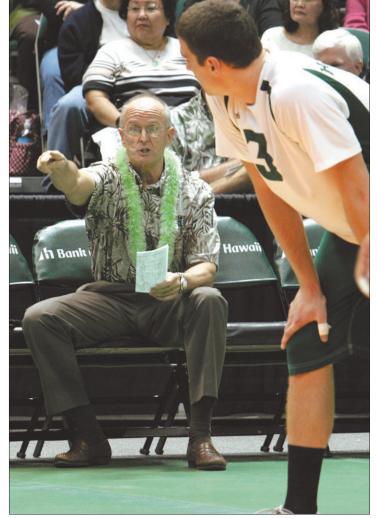
The Anteaters switched their lineup in Game 2, changing all but the libero, Brent Asuka. Hawai'i took an early lead and left UC Irvine scrambling for points.

The replacements managed to keep the Anteaters within a few points of UH, but a solo block by senior Jacob Schkud helped the Warriors finish the game with a 30-26 win.

UC Irvine head coach John Speraw attributed the loss to poor performance on offense.

"We didn't play well this entire weekend, and I thought that we were fortunate to get away with a win last night," he said.

Several Anteaters' players broke personal bests in Friday's match, including Jon Steller, who pounded 29 kills, and Aaron Harrell, who served up seven aces.



FILE PHOTO • KA LEO O HAWAI'I

Head coach Mike Wilton gives junior outside hitter Jim Clar directions during Saturday night's three-game sweep against the No. 8 UC Irvine Anteaters at the Stan Sheriff Center. Clar led the team with 13 kills and seven blocks, helping the No.14 Warriors to a 9-10 overall record and 6-8 mark in Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play.

UH head coach Mike Wilton attributed Saturday's win to the team's decrease in rash errors.

The Warriors outblocked the Anteaters 14.5 to 9. Their aggressive net play was strengthened with the return of junior Jim Clar to the court Saturday night after sitting out Friday's game. Clar and senior Matthew Rawson controlled the net, racking up 14 blocks between them.

The Warriors now make their way to California to face off against No. 10 USC on March 21

and 22 before facing No. 2 Cal State Northridge on March 25 and 26. All matches are scheduled to start at 7 p.m., California time.

As for the upcoming road trip, sophomore Steven Grgas is confident that the team is ready to face any opponent, especially in Southern California, where several of the Warriors are from.

But coach Wilton thinks it's going to take more than a home state for the team to win. "We have to ride this momentum, it's our only chance," he said.



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## **Round-robin tournaments showcase** new Rainbow Wahine talents

Rainbow Wahine volleyball hosts two spring tournaments

#### By Ashley Nonaka

Ka Leo Associate Sports Editor

The University of Hawai'i Rainbow Wahine volleyball team will hit the court this week in two round-robin exhibition mini-tournaments at the Stan Sheriff Center.

The events will take place on Tuesday, March 18, and Friday, March 21, with three matches each night starting at 4:30 p.m. The Rainbow Wahine will play the last two matches on each night, starting at 5:30 and 7 p.m.

Tuesday's mini-tournament will feature Hawai'i, Cal State Northridge and Nittaidai (Japan). Northridge and Hawai'i will return to the court on Friday to play St. Mary's in the second mini-tournament.

Head coach Dave Shoji says that the spring tournaments will help the team to improve their skills.

"I want to see some improvement by the players individually because we really haven't had a lot of time to work on the team concept, so the focus is more on each player than the team," Shoji said.

Last season, the 'Bows said aloha to four seniors: middle blockers Juliana Sanders, Kari Gregory and Caroline Blood and libero Raeceen Woolford. Sanders was a frequent starter, and without her, Shoji says that other players will have a chance to show their skills.

"We've got a new player, a transfer from Arkansas, Catherine Fowler, and I believe that she will do quite well. We also have a younger player named Amanda Simmons, who's going to be a good player in time, so those two will have some time to step in," Shoji said.

## **Catherine Fowler**

Sophomore middle blocker Catherine Fowler is a 6-foot-2 transfer from the University of Arkansas.

state and all-conference selection and earned multiple all-tournament team honors during her prep career.

She also led the Wampus Cats to four conference tournament titles and several in-season tournament crowns in her four seasons.

During her career as an Arkansas Lady Razorback, Fowler played in 117 of the Lady'Backs' 122 games last season, averaging 1.22 blocks and 1.52 kills per game.

\*Note: Information courtesy of UH athletics

Shoji also says that red-shirt

freshman Stephanie Ferrell,

who was hurt during the fall

season, has been playing well

recently and will demonstrate

this in the series. He added

that the setters will also be key

to the tournament, as they've

didn't play much last year, but

you'll see them and hopefully

workouts during the second

week of school, which includes

conditioning four times a week

they'll play well," Shoji said.

"Those are the players that

The team started spring

improved since last fall.

Amanda Simmons



blocker Amanda Simmons is a 2007 graduate of Elk Grove High School in Illinois, where she lettered two years in volleyball. The 6-foot-2 freshman was named the No. 57 senior on prepvolleyball.com's Senior Aces list and was recognized on

Freshman middle

Volleyball Magazine's Fab-50 list.

Simmons was on the honor roll and was a member of the National Honor Society. She also won the 2007 President's Award for Educational Excellence and played for Club Fusion. During the summer of 2007, Simmons was a member of the U.S. Junior National A2 Team.

## want to see some improvement by the players individually because we really haven't had a lot of time to work on the team concept, so the focus is more on each player than the team.

## –Dave Shoji, head coach

and practice twice a week.

"Everyone's been working hard to get stronger at practice," Ferrell said. "I think that we're more than prepared for this tournament."

Ferrell also hopes to gain experience. "The tournaments will allow us to build up team chemistry because we have new players and it will just give us time to bond and get to know each other on the court."

Admission to Tuesday's mini-tournament matches will be free for season-ticket holders.

Hawai'i women's volleyball coach Dave Shoji paces the sidelines during a home game last season at the Stan Sheriff Center. The Rainbow Wahine finished the 2007 season with a 27-6 overall record and went 15-1 Western Athletic Conference play.

#### FILE PHOTO KA LEO O HAWAI'I

### **Stephanie Ferrell**

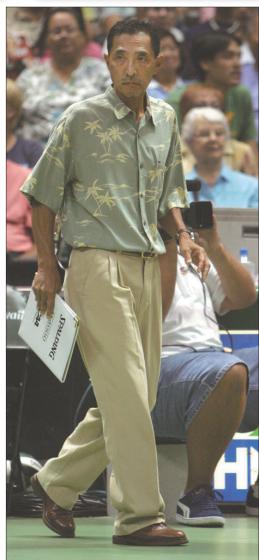


Freshman outside hitter Stephanie Ferrell is a 2007 graduate of Locke High School in Los Angeles. She lettered three years in volleyball, two years of which were at Manual Arts High School. The 6-foot-1 outside

FERREL

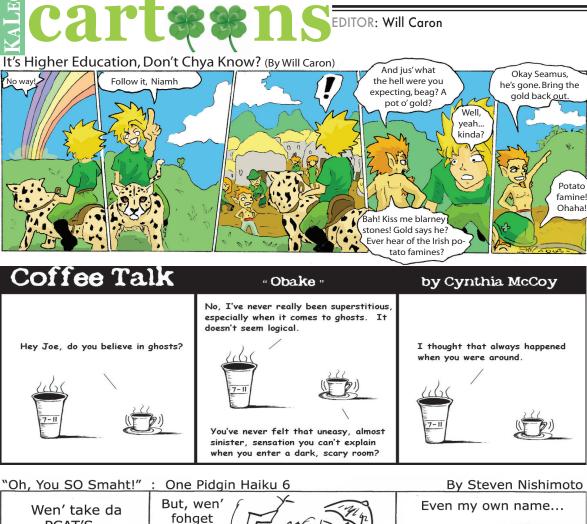
hitter was named the No. 99 senior on prepvolleyball.com's Senior Aces list.

Ferrell was listed on the girl's 17-club all-tournament team at the 2005 USA Girl's Invitational Championships. She earned all-city honors in 2004 and played for the Southern California Volleyball Club.









sorry it's the c and I'll work teven Nishimoto own name...

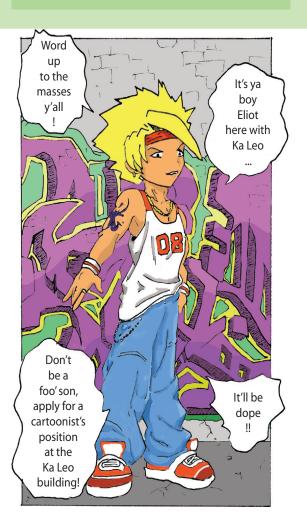
How could you.

spell your name

wrong!? Not that hard!

́ ``Я" 🔪 looked right

at the time \*cry\* –President George W. Bush in an interview on National Public Radio, Jan. 29, 2007



THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT BY JOSH HARMON

every-

thing...

PCAT'S...



wind

Note: It's like all of my science teachers are ganging up on me... Darn you, Basidomycota!!!

"Oh, You So Smaht!" : One Time with da Tourists 2 By Steven Nishimoto We want to help you Isn't Mapunapuna You First, there's 'Aiea, Waipahu, They're a kind of food? learn Hawaiian!! guys, Kahuku, Waimalu, Waikiki, Kapolei, names of Yav for Like the white bun again!? Mapunapuna... places!! A native vou!! vith meat inside? should know thought the Still Local her own lan was Chine Japanese guage.

Note: Manapua!! I like the pizza manapuas at the 'Aiea manapua shop! :)

Monday, March 17, 2008 comics@kaleo.org

"And there is distrust in Washington. I am surprised, frankly, at the amount of distrust that exists in this town. And I'm sorry it's the case, and I'll work hard to try to elevate it."